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Only Newspaper Published In Torrance

# Torrance Herald

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1936

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## EMERALD ST. EXTENSION IS FROWNED UPON

### C.C.M.O. Not Willing to Have Road Put Thru Its Property

The movement for the extension and improvement of Emerald street, fostered by E. S. Frenger on behalf of himself and other residents of Victor precinct, was given a serious set-back this week when officials of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company advised the Torrance city council that the C. C. M. O. was not willing to donate the necessary right-of-way through its property. In a letter read at the city council meeting this week, U. T. Clotfelder, vice president of the C. C. M. O. said, in part:

"The matter of a request for opening Emerald street through to Dominguez at Cedar in your city has been before us for consideration.

"The parcel of land through which Emerald street would extend if the request is granted is being held by the company for industrial development. Such development requires the establishment of roads to meet the requirements of the industries and it might very well happen that if Emerald street were extended as requested it might operate to make it impossible to locate a desirable industry on the land because this street would extend through the only site that it would consider.

"For these reasons the company is not willing to go along with the proposal and earnestly hopes that the council will take our view of the matter."

The position of C. C. M. O. officials is contrary to the advice given the city council by Mr. Frenger three weeks ago, when he claimed "the right-of-way through the C. C. M. O. property can be secured."

A copy of Mr. Clotfelder's letter was ordered sent to Mr. Frenger and members of the council indicated that they would take no further action toward promoting the improvement.

## Crenshaw Blvd. To Be Extended Thru Torrance

### County Given Permission to Improve Cedar Ave. Thru Weston Ranch

Permission to improve Crenshaw boulevard thru the Weston ranch from the state highway thru the Palos Verdes hills was given the county road department this week by the Torrance city council. Cost of the improvement, which will consist of grading and paving with rock and oil, is estimated at \$2,330, and to be paid for out of gasoline tax funds.

Crenshaw boulevard will eventually connect with Cedar avenue in Torrance, but there is still quite a section to be improved between Carson street and the point on the state highway where the new link is to start.

### CAR STOLEN

The second victim of uptown car stealers is Dewey Quigley whose Plymouth was stolen last Saturday night. The car was recovered later about two blocks away, but the whole front end had been smashed and the repairs will cost Quigley a sizeable sum.

## Ten Houses To Be Remodeled By Trustees

### Dwellings at Lower End of Amapola Vacated By Mexican Families

Extensive remodeling and re-decorating of ten houses at the lower end of Amapola avenue is to be started immediately by the trustees of the former First National Bank of Torrance, it was announced today by C. T. Rippey.

The houses have been occupied by Mexican families, who have been ordered to vacate in order that the houses may be put in attractive condition for sale and thus liquidate the bank's interest. Contract for the ten jobs has been awarded to O. B. Hamilton, local builder. When completed, the houses will be offered at attractive low prices, Rippey stated.

## Outfall Tunnel Holed Through Early Yesterday

### Boring Crews Meet in the Depths of Palos Verdes Hills

While the people of the district snoozed peacefully in their beds at 3:50 a. m. yesterday morning, heading crews of the White Point outfall sewer completed the most important job of the project far down in the depths of the Palos Verdes hills. At that hour the crews of the outer section broke through the final thin wall of shale that separated the ends of the great tunnel. Less than half an inch of error was made in the joining, in itself a fine engineering feat.

Starting on December 1 last year the crews have been working from opposite sides of the hills, drilling through rock, sand and encountering here and there voluminous flows of water from underground springs. Six miles of tunnel were to be completed before the job was finished, and the completion of the work led to an impromptu celebration when the crew broke through the last barrier.

The inland section of the six-mile tunnel, 7800 feet long was completed two months ago by the United Concrete Pipe Company of Torrance. The outer section, leading from White Point, 9100 feet long, was joined up yesterday.

Work on the half-mile section of undersea outfall pipe is proceeding slowly but with definite progress being made. The project, costing \$5,000,000, which will carry the sewage disposal of the metropolitan district, is expected to be completed next year. The work is financed by the Metropolitan Sewer District with the aid of a federal grant of \$875,000 from the government.

## Democrats Open Headquarters

Local Democratic headquarters have been opened at 1528 Craven avenue, opposite the Fire Hall, where workers are handling out campaign buttons, literature and other campaign supplies for President Roosevelt, Vice-President Garner, Congressman Colden and State Assemblyman Fred Reaves.

Headquarters for the Veterans Division and Women's Division of the Roosevelt-Garner organization is also quartered in the same building.

First meeting at the new Democratic headquarters is called for tonight at 8 p. m., to which the public is invited.

## Council Criticized

### Misunderstanding Over Insurance Bids Precipitates Argument

Failure to advertise for insurance bids covering the city's fleet of automobiles and trucks has caused considerable misunderstanding between local insurance agents and members of the city council. As a result the council was jockeyed into the position Tuesday evening of being criticized regardless of which agent was given the insurance policy.

## Powell Favors \$3 License For Small Stores

The city license fee of one-man stores, professional offices and shops should be reduced from \$12 per year to \$3, Councilman Powell, chairman of the ordinance committee recommended to the city council this week. The reduced fee would apply to business places conducted solely by the owner without the aid of hired employees.

The reduced license fee for small business houses was recommended by Councilman Powell following a protest filed recently by proprietors of small shops in which they stated that it was unfair to charge them the same license as stores doing a much larger volume of business.

The matter was referred by members of the city council to the city attorney for an opinion as to whether the city could legally discriminate against the different sized business places.

## Perfume Industry At Alondra Park Is Contemplated

### Board of Supervisors May Launch Experiment Along New Lines

Report of county agricultural experts will be awaited by the board of supervisors before taking definite steps to launch an experiment in the growing of perfume flowers at Alondra Park and possibly other areas throughout the county, it was decided this week.

The proposal was advanced by Monroe C. Kidder, a soil technologist, who explained his plan in detail before the supervisors late Tuesday. He also filed with the supervisors endorsements from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and a number of leading citizens.

Give Work to Hundreds Kidder, who has long advocated the intensive cultivation of California flora to compete with European perfume production, said that vocational training could be provided for hundreds of persons if \$20,000 of county funds could be allocated to put the project under way. Training would be afforded in architecture, landscaping, soil technology and irrigation gardening, under his plan.

University of California authorities have agreed to permit the use of laboratory equipment for flower oil extraction, which would be extracted from the flowers for commercial perfume production.

Perfume Center J. R. Wimmer, deputy county forester, stated that growing of the flowers would not interfere with development of Alondra park.

Kidder stated he believed that Los Angeles could be made the center of a perfume industry which now is centered in Grasse, France.

The San Fernando Valley Development Association, thru Charles L. Wood, secretary, and E. J. Miles, perfumer of Sunland, endorsed Kidder's proposal in letters to the supervisors.

The award of the insurance had been postponed three weeks ago in order to permit Howard G. Locke, insurance agent, to contact the Eastern offices of his company in an effort to secure a lower rate. Locke, in the meantime, protected the city against loss without cost.

One Sealed Bid When the matter came up for decision Tuesday evening, B. C. Buxton handed the city clerk a letter inclosing a sealed bid. The letter stated that unless the city was to award the bid at its meeting, the bid should not be opened. Proposals of Howard G. Locke and Wallace Gilbert, other local agents, were not sealed, as they explained that the city had not requested sealed bids.

Councilman Powell moved that the city advertise for bids and that the award be given to the lowest responsible bidder. His motion lost for want of a second.

Then Councilman McGuire stated that he did not think it was necessary to advertise for bids as it was generally known to local agents that the city insurance expired on October 21.

It has been the policy of the city to award insurance contracts to those agents who give their entire time to the business instead of treating insurance "as a sideline," remarked Mayor Stanger.

Licenses Questioned Mayor Stanger then asked each agent if he had a license and all three replied that they had.

McGuire then moved that the bids be opened and the motion was adopted, all four councilmen voting in the affirmative. Councilman Hitchcock was absent on vacation in New York.

Low Bid Awarded City Clerk Bartlett then read the bids, as follows:

Western Insurance Co., represented by B. C. Buxton, \$998.76.

Fidelity-Phoenix Insurance Co., represented by W. H. Gilbert, \$1106.42.

Travelers Insurance, represented by Howard G. Locke, \$1106.42.

After a long pause, Councilman McGuire moved that the bid be awarded to the lowest bidder and the motion was carried unanimously.

Protest Action Later in the meeting during oral communications, W. H. Gilbert stated that it was his understanding and also that of Mr. Locke, that the city would not consider bids from non-conference companies such as the Western Insurance Company, and for this reason they did not submit bids from non-conference companies which they also represented.

"We were handicapped," stated Gilbert, and "all we ask is fair play."

Buxton defended the company he represented quoting a long list of Southern California municipalities which had policies with it.

The council took no further action and the award was left with Buxton.

Method Criticized During the discussion it was pointed out by Grover C. Whyte that if the council had followed the policy pursued by other councils and asked for sealed proposals, the question of whether non-board companies would be eligible or not would have been clearly defined in the request for bids and the misunderstandings avoided.

## MRS. CURTISS PASSES AWAY AT HOSPITAL

### Former Resident of Torrance Succumbs After Brief Illness

Mrs. Clara L. Curtiss, former resident of Torrance, who had been seriously ill for a week following an operation at the Good Samaritan hospital in Los Angeles, passed away Sunday, Oct. 11. Development of a blood clot near the heart had made Mrs. Curtiss' condition precarious for several days after the operation, but this condition had cleared up and hopes were entertained that she might recover. However, the strain proved too great in her weakened state, and on Sunday she quietly passed away.

Mrs. Curtiss had been a resident of Torrance for about 12 years prior to her removal to Los Angeles in 1922. She was born in Dubuque, Ia., on Nov. 10, 1867. Her husband, Charles N. Curtiss, preceded her in death several years ago.

During her residence here Mrs. Curtiss took an active part in church and club work, and since her removal to Los Angeles she identified herself closely with the work in St. Paul's cathedral of which she was a member, and also with the Schubert-Wawan Club, a Los Angeles musical organization. Mrs. Curtiss was a fine vocalist who had devoted many years to the study of music, and in her younger days had done much amateur concert work.

She leaves one son, Charles A. Curtiss, of Torrance; a daughter, Mrs. Adele C. Shinn, of Los Angeles, and two sisters, Mrs. Louise Conkey, of Portland, who came to attend the last rites, and Mrs. Alice Eschen, of Dubuque, Ia. Only a few days before her death, the family received the news of the passing of another sister who resided in Germany.

Funeral services, which were attended by many Torrance friends, were held at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, Oct. 14, from St. Columba chapel of St. Paul's cathedral, Dean Beal officiating, followed by cremation.

## Women Invited To Luncheon

Women of Torrance are invited to attend the potluck luncheon to be held at the city park Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 20, at 1 o'clock. Mrs. Charles J. Colden, wife of Congressman Colden, and Fred Reaves, assemblyman from the 68th district, will be the speakers. Those who attend are requested to bring their own table service and lunch. The political issues of the day will be discussed.

## Civil Service Member Resigns

Irvin C. Rous tendered his resignation as a member of the city's civil service commission this week. Mr. Rous stated in his communication to the city council that he was obliged to resign due to the increased amount of his other work, but that he would be glad to continue to assist the city in any way that he could. His resignation was accepted. The council has not yet filled the vacancy.

## MOTOR DELAYS MAIL

Mail shipments over the P. E. railway intended for the harbor district were delayed several hours Tuesday morning when a motor on the 7 o'clock mail train burned out.

# CITIZENS OF N. TORRANCE PRAISE CITY

## Union Pickets From San Pedro Come to Town

Union pickets from San Pedro have made their appearance in Torrance. All day yesterday three union plasterers sat in a car opposite a new home being built at 1418 El Prado, in silent protest to a non-union plastering contractor, who was awarded the job, although his employees are reported to be all union men.

Threats against the same plastering contractor have previously been made on other Torrance construction jobs and even the owners of property have been "warned" over the telephone not to permit the non-union contractor to work. So far, however, there has been no violence reported to the police.

## Registration Reaches High Peak in City

### Nearly 4500 Persons Are Eligible to Vote in November

With registration at its highest peak in the county's history, it was announced today that a total of 4417 persons were registered in Torrance city and eligible to vote at the November 3 election, approximately three weeks hence.

This city had a total registration of only 3684 for the previous presidential election in 1932. For the August 25 primary election there were 4192 registered, and for the 1934 general election, 3970.

Local political observers may note with interest that the strength of the two principal parties now is divided as follows: Democrats 2378, Republicans 1319, decline to state, 192.

In the 1932 election, there were in this city only 1492 Democrats and 1937 Republican voters, the registrar's records show.

Throughout the county, 82 cities have a Democratic majority, and the other 12 have a Republican majority, the lists reveal.

Total number of Democrats in the county now is 822,201, while the Republican ranks have 498,468. Democrats have gained 142,169 since the last presidential election, while the Republicans have lost 65,046. The grand total of voters for the county at the November 3 election is 1,396,606. It is believed the county's registration may pass the 1,400,000-mark before the end of 1936.

Next to the two major parties is the decline-to-state classification, which has 66,593 votes that are expected to be divided between the two major party candidates.

There are 175,679 voters living in unincorporated sections of the county, and 1,220,927 residing within cities.

There are far more men than women in the Democratic ranks, but more women than men in the Republican forces.

### BEAT REDONDO

Torrance police team, Travlioll, Bennett, Spehager, Calder and Ashton, defeated a Redondo Beach police squad at a pistol match yesterday, 1131 to 855.

## Fire Insurance Rates Due for Sharp Reduction

### Business Rate to Be Lowered 15c and Residence 20c, Mayor Forecasts

Fire insurance rates on residential and business property in Torrance will be substantially lowered as the result of better fire-fighting equipment and operation of the city's new water department, Mayor Wm. H. Stanger reported to the city council this week.

While Mayor Stanger emphasized that there had as yet been no official commitment given by the State Board of Fire Underwriters, he said he had been informed "unofficially" that the insurance rate would be reduced 15 cents on business property and 20 cents on residential property.

When asked how soon the lowered rates would go into effect, Mayor Stanger said he could not say. The members of the Fire Underwriters' board are very busy and you can't hurry them, he said.

The city's application for lower insurance rates has been before the State Board of Fire Underwriters for several months.

## Columbia Steel Promotes Safety Poster Contest

### Cash Prize of \$40 To Be Divided Among Local School Students

At the suggestion of President A. N. Diehl of the Columbia Steel Company, arrangements were made with the schools of Torrance and Pittsburg, where the company has large plants, to conduct a safety poster campaign. Art students in all of the schools of the two communities are eligible to compete for the \$40 in prizes, which will be paid by the steel company in cash.

The contest, which will run for three months, starts immediately. At the Torrance high school, contestants will be entered from the junior and senior divisions, with a prize of \$15 to be awarded as the senior first prize, \$7.50 for second place; junior prizes will be \$7.50 for first place and \$5.00 for second.

Contestants from the Torrance elementary and Fern avenue schools are also eligible.

At the close of the contest a committee from the Columbia Steel plant will select a group of the most meritorious posters, and the final selections will be made by a committee composed of plant officials, school representatives and local citizens.

## New Brick Yard At N. Torrance

A permit to construct a brick manufacturing plant at 17924 S. Prairie avenue, North Torrance, was granted to Liston Brothers by the Torrance city council Tuesday evening. There are three other brick yards in this same district.

## FRIENDLINESS IS THEME OF UNIQUE PARTY

### Interesting Musical Program Given By Pupils of Perry School

Rarely, if ever, in the history of California municipal governments has there ever been such a unique expression of appreciation for services rendered to a district as was extended to Torrance city officials last evening by residents of North Torrance. It was a genuine love feast and practically every city official and his wife were present to hear the kind words which were spoken, and to partake of the delicious refreshments served.

New Association The party was held in the Perry school auditorium under the auspices of the newly organized North Torrance Improvement Association. The district formerly known as the McDonald Tract has been re-named North Torrance in recognition of the closer friendship which now exists between its residents and the older section of the city. A large new neon sign with the words "North Torrance" in blue and red has been erected by the city council at the northern portal to the city at Prairie avenue and Redondo Beach boulevard. It was lighted for the first time last evening.

Proud of Torrance "We are looking forward to being part and parcel of the beautiful city of Torrance, which I consider the cleanest and most progressive city of its size in California," said P. W. Giddings, program chairman.

"We wish to do our part in civic affairs. It will be the purpose of the North Torrance Improvement Association to constantly maintain friendly relations with the city council. We do not intend to harass the council with our purely neighborhood problems, but to talk them over among ourselves and to ask for only those things which we feel we are fairly entitled to receive," Mr. Giddings added. Next meeting of the North Torrance Association will be held on November 10, he announced.

Many Improvements The party last evening was suggested by a reception committee of which Mrs. Lela Goner was chairman in appreciation for the recent improvements which the city had made in the district. Among these were additional street lights, elimination of the hog farm nuisance, better fire and police protection, and the erection of the new neon sign. A number of residents in the El Nido district joined in the affair.

Honored Guests Among the honored guests introduced were: Mayor and Mrs. W. H. Stanger, Councilman and Mrs. Tom McGuire, Councilman and Mrs. W. H. Tolson, Councilman and Mrs. George V. Powell, Police Chief and Mrs. G. M. Calder, City Clerk and Mrs. A. H. Bartlett, City Attorney and Mrs. C. T. Rippey, Street Superintendent and Mrs. Wm.

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# COOKING SCHOOL OPENS NEXT WEDNESDAY